MARVEL COMICS
2099
32
AUG
ONE NATION UNDER DOOM
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DOOM
2099 A.D.

IN THE AUTUMN OF 2099, THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPLODED.

THE FRACTURED STATES OF AMERICA, RULED BY THE U.S. MEGACORPS, WERE A BERSERK, POLLUTED DANGER TO THE ENTIRE PLANET — A RABID DOG IN HUNGRY PURSUIT OF THE PROFIT MOTIVE.

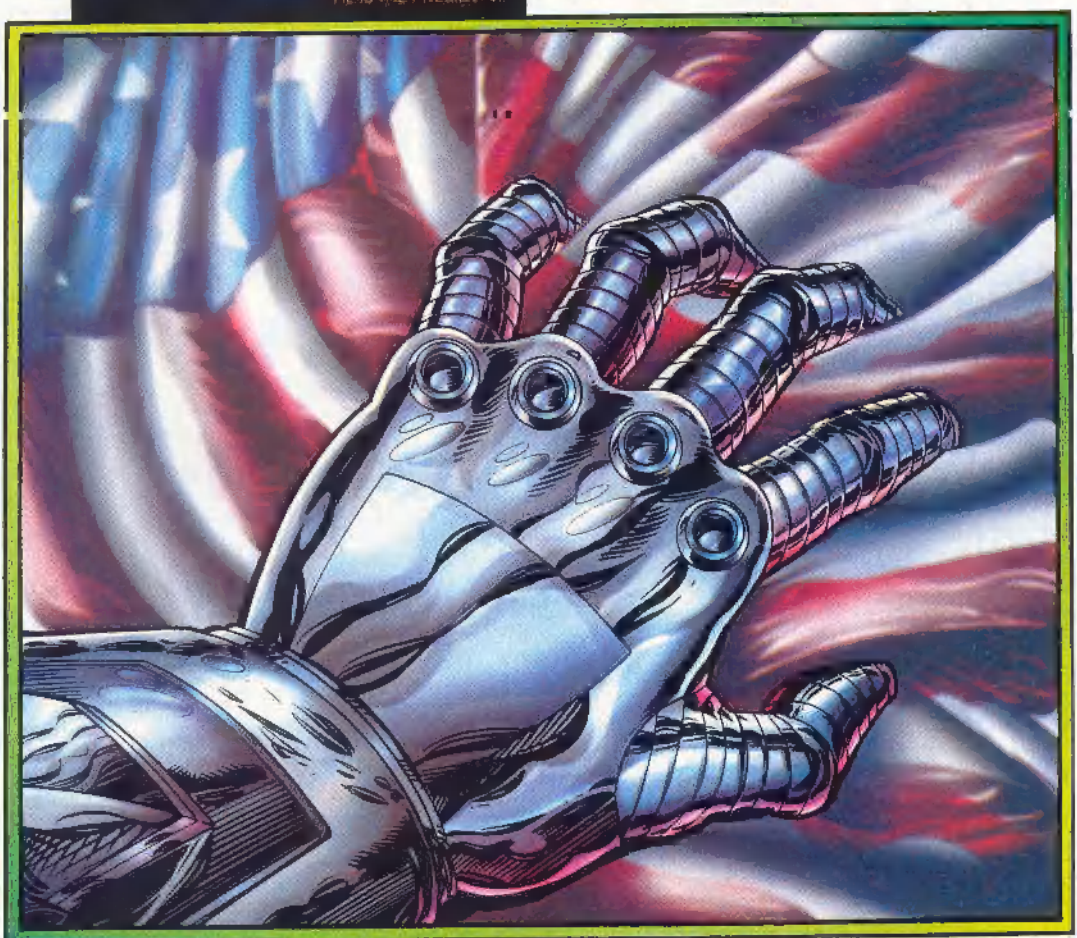
DOOM, RULER OF THE EUROPEAN STATE OF LATVERIA, WAS FORCED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, IN HIS CONTINUING BID TO SAVE HIS HOME, HE MUST FIRST SAVE AMERICA — FROM ITSELF.

SO HE TOOK OVER AMERICA.

CLAIMING THE PRESIDENCY BY RIGHT OF REVOLUTION, DOOM HAS COWED THE MEGACORPS, FORCING THEM TO USE THEIR MONEY TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY THEY HAVE ALMOST RUINED.

THERE HAVE BEEN SETBACKS: A DISASTROUS TELEVISED ADDRESS WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HALLUCINOGENS HAS DESTROYED HIS IMAGE IN THE EYES OF AN ALREADY FEARFUL AMERICAN PUBLIC. AND DOOM'S CALLOUS DESTRUCTION OF THE TOXIC BLIGHT CALLED HELLROCK (AND ITS "RULER", PAUL PHILIP RAVAGE) DID NOT HELP.

BUT DOOM IS IN CONTROL. HE HAS DONE GOOD THINGS. HE IS THE PRESIDENT.



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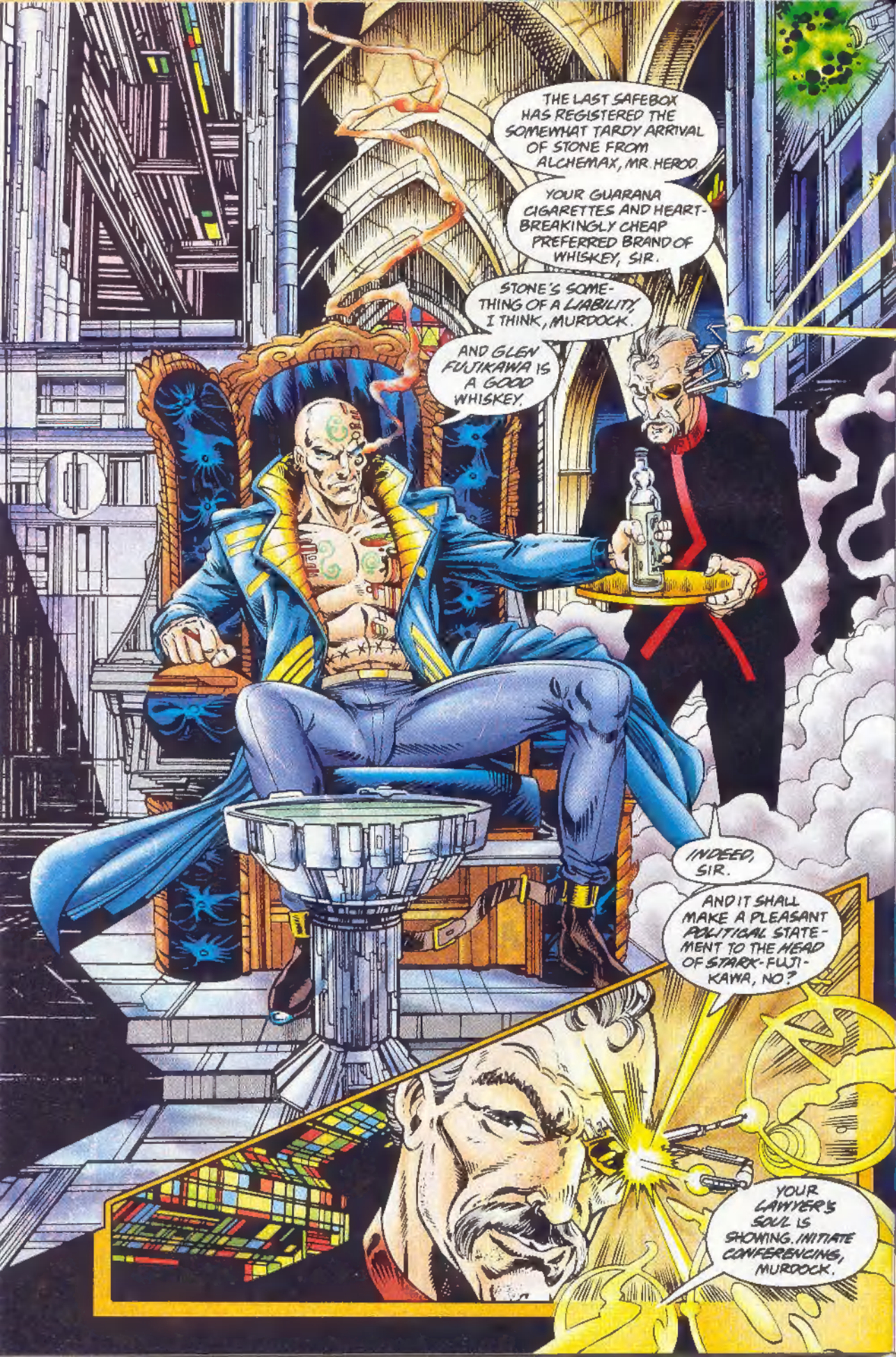
THE SUN DOESN'T RISE OVER CHICAGO.

RISE
A Stan Lee presentation
Warren ELLIS writer
John ROYLE & Scott KOBLISH Artists
John COSTANZA letterer
Megan McDOWELL colorist
Joey CAVALIERI editor
Bobbie CHASE chief
Violent Hues Malibu computer color

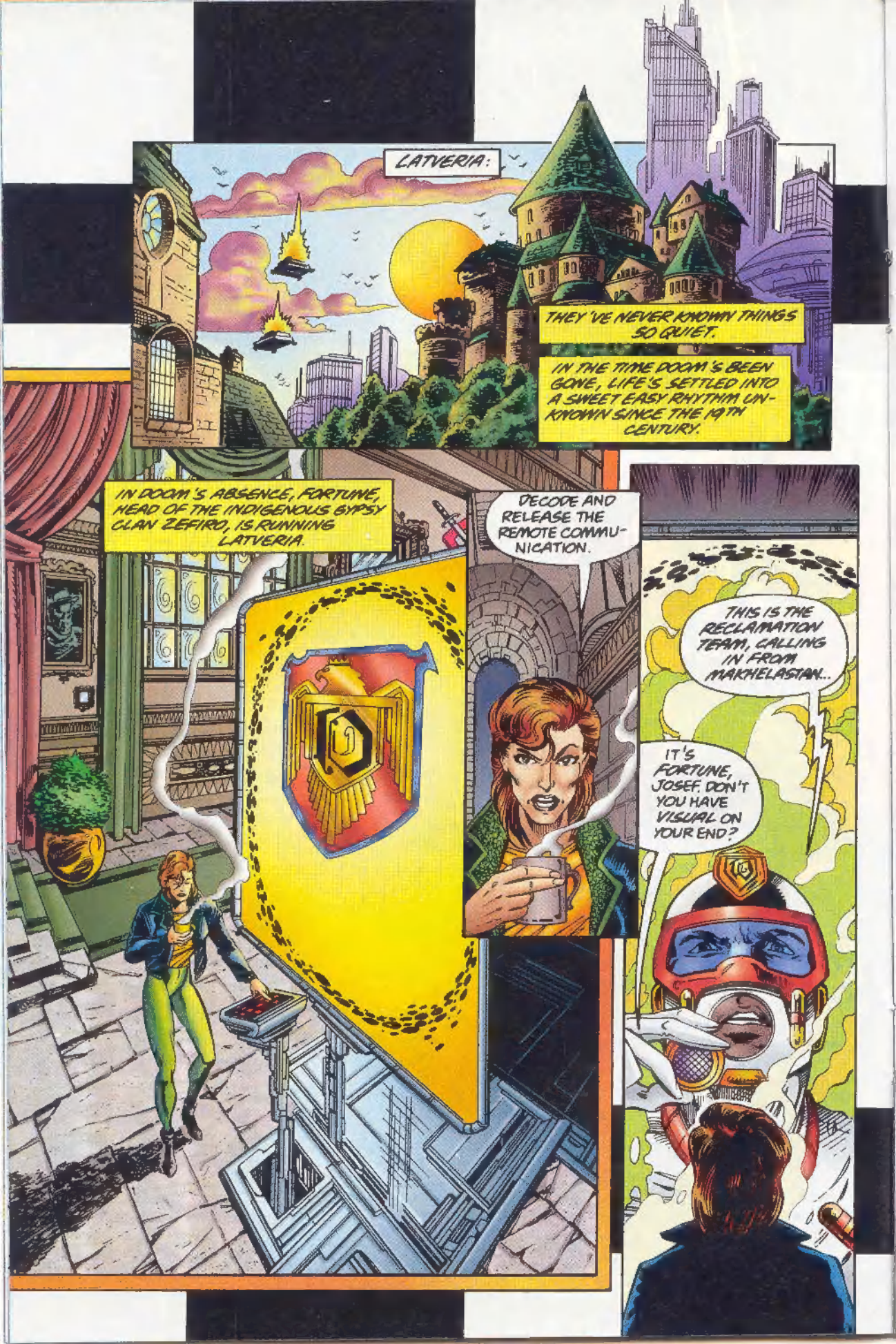
FLIGHT AMX TO RESERVE, CONFIRMING FINAL APPROACH--
--AND MY PASSENGER WANTS ANOTHER CONFIRMATION THAT CHICAGO INTER-ZONE DIPLOMATIC LAW IS IN FORCE.
PLEASE ASSURE HIM THAT, DESPITE THE CURRENT SITUATION--
--THE RESERVE IS STILL OWNED BY THE COALITION OF MEGACORPS, AND MR. HEROD HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED HIS SAFETY.
SHOCKIN' WELL BETTER HAVE DONE-- THE RUN TO THE RESERVE WAS ENOUGH OF A RISK IN THE OLD DAYS...
...THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS USED TO LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT...
YOUR IDENTIFICATION, SIR?
NAME: TYLER STOVE. TRIGGER-PHRASE: STEP ON SPIDERS.
AND HERE'S MY SAFEBOX LOCKING SEQUENCER, RIGHT WHERE HEROD IMPLANTED IT.
CAN WE GET ON WITH IT NOW?

WELCOME TO THE RESERVE, MR. STONE.
THIS FLOAT SILO WILL CONVEY YOU DIRECTLY TO YOUR SAFEBOX, WHERE YOU SHALL ENTER INTO CONFERENCE WITH MR. HEROD AND YOUR FELLOW CEOS.
THE PASSENGER IS REMINDED OF DIPLOMATIC LAW WITHIN THE CHICAGO INTERZONE.
NO HOSTILE ECONOMIC ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN WITHIN OR UPON THE INTERZONE. IT IS RULED BY A COALITION OF CORPORATIONS.
NO HOSTILE PHYSICAL ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN UPON CORPORATE PERSONNEL OF ANY DENOMINATION. THE RESERVE IS NEUTRAL TERRITORY.
OCCUPANT TYLER STONE. THE FLOAT SILO WILL SEAL IN THREE SECONDS.
YOU ARE NOW WITHIN THE HEROD SAFEBOX, DESIGNED BY NEUTRAL RESERVE TECHNICIANS.
LAYERED FORCEFIELDS AND PHASE-SHELL CASCADES ARE POWERING UP. YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM ALL HARM.
HEROD AND HIS BLASTED INFOMERCIALS...
INITIATE CONFERENCING.


THE LAST SAFEBOX HAS REGISTERED THE SOMEWHAT TARDY ARRIVAL OF STONE FROM ALCHEMAX, MR. HEROD.
YOUR GUARANA CIGARETTES AND HEART-BREAKINGLY CHEAP PREFERRED BRAND OF WHISKEY, SIR.
STONE'S SOMETHING OF A LIABILITY, I THINK, MURDOCK.
AND GLEN FUJIKAWA IS A GOOD WHISKEY.
INDEED, SIR.
AND IT SHALL MAKE A PLEASANT POLITICAL STATEMENT TO THE HEAD OF STARK-FUJIKAWA, NO?
YOUR LAWYER'S SOUL IS SHOWING. INITIATE CONFERENCING, MURDOCK.

GOOD EVENING.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS CONFERENCE'S RATHER PATCHWORK NATURE. YOUR SAFEBOXES' PHASE SHELL CASCADES EACH HAVE A DIFFERENT FREQUENCY, EACH OF WHICH UNFORTUNATELY INTERFERES WITH A CERTAIN BROADCAST MEDIUM.
HOWEVER, IT IS STILL SAFER THAN MEETING FACE-TO-FACE.

I NEED REMIND NO ONE OF THE TIME BEFORE SAFEBOXES, WHEN AN ALCHEMAX EXECUTIVE RELEASED AN ALGERIAN KNIFE-MISSILE INTO A CROWDED CONFERENCE ROOM.
NOW--LET US SPEAK OF RULING AMERICA.


LATVERIA:
THEY'VE NEVER KNOWN THINGS SO QUIET.
IN THE TIME DOOM'S BEEN GONE, LIFE'S SETTLED INTO A SWEET EASY RHYTHM UNKNOWN SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY.
IN DOOM'S ABSENCE, FORTUNE, HEAD OF THE INDIGENOUS GYPSY CLAN ZEFIRO, IS RUNNING LATVERIA.
DECODE AND RELEASE THE REMOTE COMMUNICATION.
THIS IS THE RECLAMATION TEAM, CALLING IN FROM MAKHELASTAN...
IT'S FORTUNE, JOSEF. DON'T YOU HAVE VISUAL ON YOUR END?

NONE OF THE ELECTRONICS ARE WORKING PROPERLY HERE. KRESKI THINKS IT'S EITHER RELEASED MOISTURE OR A HIGHER SKIN CELL CONTENT IN THE AIR.
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING? ANY SURVIVORS, ANY ATTEMPTS TO, YOU KNOW, HARVEST...
WELL, LIGHO WENT MAD UPON EXITING THE FLYER, AND ATE SEVERAL MOUTH-FULS OF THE REMAINS BEFORE WE COULD RESTRAIN HIM...
MAXIM FOUND AN UNVENTED DELIVERY SYSTEM, WHICH TRIGGERED, AND SHE'S LOST BOTH LEGS...
... AND, IN SUMMARY, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT ALIVE IN MAKNEL-ASTAN.
THE NECRO-TOXIFICATION ERADICATED EVERYONE.
THERE'S NOTHING TO RECLAIM HERE, FORTUNE.

WASHINGTON D.C.: LIBERA CIELO HANGING SERENELY ABOVE THE WHITE HOUSE...
WITHIN THE FLOATING [redacted]TH, ESHUN, MINISTER OF SIGNAL, STROLLS THROUGH A GALAXY MADE OF MONEY:
A HOLOGRAMMATIC REPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN CORPORATE STRUCTURE
PLANETS FOR MEGACORPS, SUBSIDIARY FIRMS SPUN AS MOONS, GREAT GHOST WORLDS OF SHADY LEGAL MAGIC...
...AND SOMETHING IN CHICAGO, SUCKING IN ANY LIGHT SHE TRIES TO SHINE ON IT.
SHE'S STARTING [redacted] THINK THAT THE MEGACORPS ARE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING THERE, BUT THAT'S RIDIC-ULOUS.
MEGACORPS DON'T WORK TOGETHER.

IN THE OVAL OFFICE;
QUITE FASCINATING.
I SEE ONLY THE HOLO OF A MAN IN BEDROOM ATTIRE, MY EMPLOYER.
STAR-SPANGLED-- AN ALLMEDIA NOVEL BY JACK KING, PUBLISHED BY THE CHICAGO ARTS LAB...
SYNOPSIS VERSION SELECTED --RUNNING--
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU [illegible] NOT AMERICAN, NKRUMAH.
THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA, ONE OF THE MORE [illegible] PLAYERS IN THE HEROIC AGE.
IT [illegible] THAT, IN AMERICA'S SEARCH [illegible] COPE WITH MY PRESIDENCY, THEY ARE LOOKING FOR PURE AMERICAN ICONS.

THE PEOPLE'S
FOR PRESIDENT
THIS, THE LIFE STORY OF THE CAPTAIN, IS CURRENTLY THE MOST POPULAR NOVEL IN AMERICA. I THOUGHT IT WORTH STUDY.
AND?
FULL OF MISTAKES. THOUGH I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT HE WAS A CONTEMPORARY OF YOUR PANTHER KING OF THAT ERA, T'CHALLA.
I DO NOT RECALL THIS, EITHER -- THE CAPTAIN ARMED AND ON THE STREET, FIGHTING THE NEW YORK LANGUAGE RIOTS OF THE EARLY 2000's.
BECAUSE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
WHY PLACE SUCH AN OBVIOUS LIE IN A BIOGRAPHY, THEN?
BECAUSE, UNLIKE YOU WAKANDANS, AMERICANS HAVE NO RESPECT FOR HISTORY.
QUITE SIMPLY -- THE AUDIENCE DOESN'T KNOW IT'S A LIE.
THEY HAVE RECAST THE CAPTAIN AS A PATRIOT SOLDIER, A CONSERVATIVE ICON OF WAR AND CULTURAL STASIS.
A COMFORTABLE LITTLE FABLE FOR CONSERVATIVE LITTLE PEOPLE IN CHAOTIC TIMES.
I SHOULD ALLOW THEM THEIR FAIRY STORIES.

GENTLEMEN.
YOU CREATED THE CHICAGO RESERVE TO HOLD THE TECHNOLOGIES THAT THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS WAS CONSIDERED NOT YET READY FOR.
THE MEAT HARPS THAT WOULD EASE COMMUNICATION SO MUCH IF NOT FOR THEIR ORIGIN, THE STAR-DRIVE THAT FEEDS ON PERVERSION..
YOU PLACED ME IN CHARGE OF IT ALL.
REFERRED TO ME AS SEPULCHRE IN VOLATILE MEMOS.
TRUSTED ME WITH THE STRANGEST AND MOST HORRENDOUS THINGS IN THE WORLD.
TRUST ME MORE.
WHY?

BECAUSE DOOM HAS YET TO LOCATE AND DIVINE THE TRUE NATURE OF THE RESERVE. HE HAS NOT YET HEARD OF MR. HERODD.
MR. HERODD PLANNED FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY, SIR, INCLUDING AN INVASION.
MURDOCK. PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM WITHIN OUR GUEST.
AS WE [redacted] SAYING... DOOM IS INTELLIGENT AND INTREPID. SO [redacted] SURELY HAVE BUT A LITTLE TIME BEFORE I AM FOUND OUT.
OF ALL OF US, I AM THE ONLY ONE IN A POSITION TO ACT AGAINST DOOM'S REGIME.
HOWEVER [redacted] IS A PRICE FOR MY REMOVAL OF DOOM FROM THE STAGE.
I WANT TO RULE AMERICA MYSELF.
IN THIS BARGAIN, I COST YOU THE UNCONDITIONAL PRESIDENCY.
CAPITALISM IN ACTION.

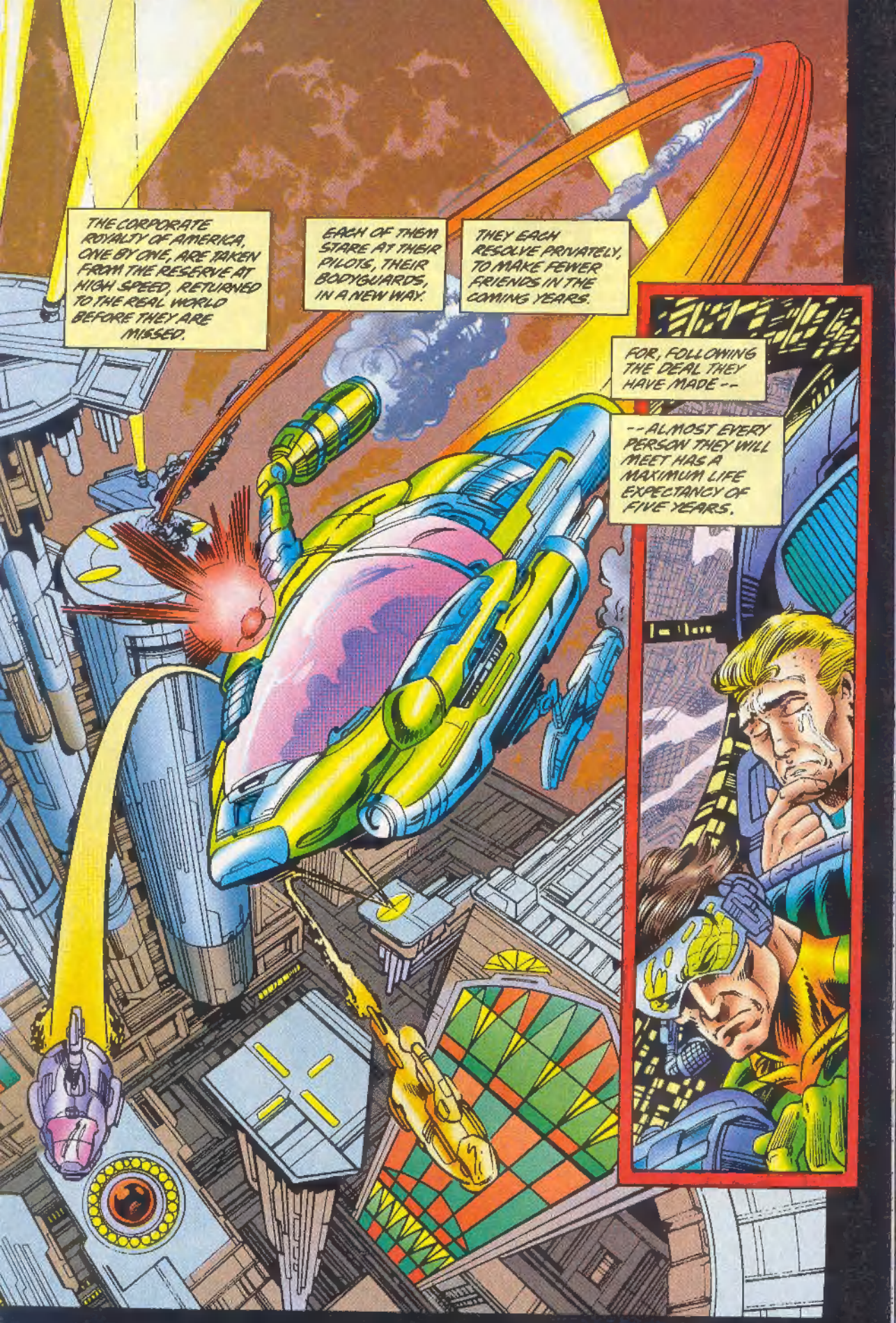
I HAVE AN AMERICAN DREAM.
I WANT TO BLEED THIS GREAT NATION DRY, MAYBE EVEN THE WORLD.
IT'S WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO, GENTLEMEN. [redacted] ARE HERE TO TAKE EVERYTHING [redacted] OUR MOTHER WORLD AND START AGAIN ELSEWHERE.
I PROPOSE TO TAKE OUR CORPORATE ETHOS TO ITS NATURAL EXTREME--ASSET-STRIP OUR PLANET AND RELOCATE TO MARS.
A WONDROUS RETIREMENT IN FINE COLONIES BUILT WITH EARTH'S BLOOD. REARING STRONG CHILDREN TO TAKE THE ETHOS TO NEW TERRITORIES.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.
IT'LL TAKE LESS THAN FIVE YEARS TO ACHIEVE.
ACTIVITIES NOT GENERATING DIRECT PROFIT WILL BE CURTAILED OR REMOVED. THIS INCLUDES CIVIC SERVICES.
THE WORKFORCE WILL REDUCE, TRUE, BUT EVEN WHEN THE CITIES ARE HUSKS AND THE AIR IS THICK AND BROWN--
WELL, SHOCK, EVEN IF WE KILL SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF TH[redacted], WE FIGURE WE'RE OKAY.

A ACROSS THE NATION.
IN NEW YORK, THE EMP NET OVERHEAD HAS WORKED HARD.
THE AIR CAN BE BREATHED UN-PROTECTED FOR OVER TEN HOURS AT A TIME NOW.
SHIELD PROVIDES POLICE PROTECTION TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL STATUS.
CYNEX BODYWORK STORES ARE GIVING CHEAP AND EASY CYBERINTERFACE IMPLANTS FREE TO ALLCOMERS.
DIVE BOOTHS ARE BUSY; INFORMATION IS FREE.
A TV CHANNEL HAS BEEN GIVEN OVER TO A 24-HOUR VIGIL ON THE PLANTLIFE SPRINGING UP ACROSS AMERICAN CITIES...
ORGANLEGGERS, WHOSE MOST LUCRATIVE PREY WERE THE CREDIT-LESS, ARE JUST THE FIRST STRATA OF CRIMINAL LIFE TO FEEL THE PINCH.

WIRE?
WIRE, IT'S SHARP BLUE. INDIGO SAYS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF HERE IN DAYS, AND...
WIRE, COME ON...
OKAY, IF THAT'S THE WAY IT IS...
LIGHTS,
YANDRA

YOU ARE COMPLETELY MAD.
I'M A VISIONARY.
I'M OFFERING ALL OF YOU A LIFE OF WONDER, UNDER MY GUIDANCE...
... OR A LONG DULL EXISTENCE WITH YOUR MOST PRECIOUS BITS IN DOOM'S HAND.
I CAN TAKE DOOM OUT FOR YOU. TAKE OUR NATION AS A CRUCIBLE FOR A NEW WORLD--
-- BUT YOU MUST AGREE NOW, UNANIMOUSLY, FOR WE HAVE LITTLE TIME AND MUCH TO DO.
YOU WILL NOT QUESTION MY METHODS, NOR HINDER ME IN MY APPOINTED TASKS. THAT IS ALL I ASK.
WELL? WHAT'S IT TO BE?
WHAT IF WE REFUSE?

WELL, UNDER INTERZONE LAW, YOU ARE ALL SAFE FROM PHYSICAL HARM.
WE CANNOT TAKE ANY RETRIBUTION. THAT WOULD VIOLATE EVERY DIPLOMATIC TENET.
BUT WE VOIDED THE CODING ON YOUR LOCKING SEQUENCERS ANYWAY.
WE CAN OPEN YOUR SAFEBOXES ANY TIME WE LIKE.
I COULD ASSASSINATE THE LOT OF YOU. THAT'D CREATE MORE THAN ENOUGH TURMOIL FOR ME TO BEGIN MY TASK.
BUT I OWED YOU A CHANCE TO ENTER THE NEW ORDER ON THE GROUND FLOOR.
ONE CHANCE.


THE CORPORATE ROYALTY OF AMERICA, ONE BY ONE, ARE TAKEN FROM THE RESERVE AT HIGH SPEED, RETURNED TO THE REAL WORLD BEFORE THEY ARE MISSED.
EACH OF THEM STARE AT THEIR PILOTS, THEIR BODYGUARDS, IN A NEW WAY.
THEY EACH RESOLVE PRIVATELY, TO MAKE FEWER FRIENDS IN THE COMING YEARS.
FOR, FOLLOWING THE DEAL THEY HAVE MADE --
--ALMOST EVERY PERSON THEY WILL MEET HAS A MAXIMUM LIFE EXPECTANCY OF FIVE YEARS.

"The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."

—William Butler Yeats

# VOICES OF DOOM

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

## Off With His Head

Latverian Diary, 2099:

Today, the components for my secret weapon to maintain control of the United States arrived. Since these components cannot be acquired in the black markets of Gojradia, I had my aide-de-camp, Wire, discreetly order them from Alchemax! Super genius! Sheer, unadulterated brilliance! The crates have arrived this morning, freshly painted with the Alchemax logo!

Hmm. Since my takeover, Alchemax must be abbreviating its name. I see they have telescoped their corporate identity down to four letters.

"A.C.M.E."

Dear Doomsayers,

Doom 2099 is awesome! Especially issue #29! At last we have a president with an iron hand (literally)! I wholeheartedly throw my support with Doom! After many long decades, he's finally getting what he deserves—world control! I've always loved a good villain, more than a hero. Doom is hard to top. Whether this current Doom is truly Von Doom, or Kristoff, or Kang, or Reed Richards, just keep him on top and in control.

I don't really care for the dark armor and red cloak (as I finally got used to his silver armor and blue cloak) but I can live with it. I have a special request for a villain who's plagued Doom twice in the past. He has attacked always when Doom was out of Latveria. I'm speaking of course about the Red Skull. Doom's kicked his butt twice already, and I would dearly love to see him do it a third time. Isn't it possible that the Skull could find a way to prolong his life, and emerge in 2099?

Please consider it. And since you guys are having so much fun redesigning Doom's armor, will you challenge yourselves in the future by designing Iron Man 2099?

David Ward Parker
Wake Forest, NC

You never know who or what it'll take to get Doom out of office, as you'll soon see, David.

Doomfolks,

Re: Doom 2099 #28 and 2099 A.D.

I like it when the world changes. When I gamemaster role-playing games, and I let superheroes change the world and blow the status quo to heck, people get confused. Your readers will probably get confused, too. Hold the course. Live up to what you're attempting. Don't hold back or try to keep things "normal." With every generation, man's capacity for change accelerates, until by the 22nd century it would be almost a blur. Dark Horse tried something like this with Golden City, but fumbled the ball. Show that it can be done. The comic world is watching.

I have one request. Do not, do NOT, DO NOT lose Fortune. I've found her interesting and vital since issue #1. I find it hard to imagine Doom without her. You want to put her on the sidelines for awhile as Doom takes over the world? Cool. That'll just make it all the better when she comes back. But don't cut her out of the picture permanently. If she does fade away, keep the home fires burning and check in for a chat once in awhile.

Art. Whoah, what can I say? Since the first issue, I've been struck by the art in this book, only disappointed by your guest penciler one-shot stories in cyberspace. Sorry, maybe other folks liked them, but I found them unsatisfying. For a book that comes out monthly, Mr. Broderick and Mr. Nyberg put a lot of work in. The high tech vehicles, weapons, etc., are all impressive. Doom is majestic.

Dialog. Doom has one of the most unique voices in comics. The comments about his funky sense of humor made by Matt Kuhns in the letter column for issue #28 were absolutely right. Mr. Ellis, please don't lose that voice.

Okay, 2099 A.D. #1.

First, the bad news. Too much in too little space. I followed the plot, sort of, but yikes! Maybe it should have been a two parter? Are you trying to tell me that Matter Eater Babe could take out the Hulk!? Talk about suspension of disbelief!

Now the good news. Fortune looked great. I mean, really great. It was good to hear Doom suggest he plans on keeping her around for awhile (or at least, not kicking her out). Although I don't normally go in for "rad" covers, I have to say that the hype was right about this one. Wow. Also, the dialog (whenever it wasn't filling in the overly off-stage back story) was entertaining, particularly for the Punisher and Spider-Man.

Go for it guys (um, figure of speech, Ms. Chase and Ms. Pelosi).

Jason Vester
Las Vegas, NV

We have no plans to hold back and we'd never accuse each other of being normal, so have no fear, Jason. Also, Fortune will be around, as will Warren's fantastic dialog. Thanks for writing us about the A.D. and you're absolutely right, there was a lot we wanted to cover in that book, but unfortunately neither time nor space allowed it all. We hope you all enjoyed it. Write and tell us what you thought.

Unto the Voices of Doom,

I really like what you've done with DOOM 2099. It's my favorite comic, and I am glad that he is constantly evolving as a character. It's interesting how the many plots coincide and play out with one another. I've enjoyed the constant building up of the stories and characters. The new armor is an excellent addition to the series. Last, but not least is the art. It too has grown with the series and I am sure it will continue to do so.

Sam Stewart
Manassas, VA

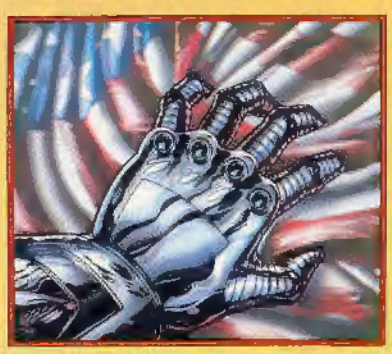
Thanks for writing, Sam. We hope you like David Klein's guest stint this ish, and John Royle guest shot next ish. After that, Steve Pugh and Scott Koblish take over the artistic reins. Wait'll you see what they accomplish.

Dear Doompeople,

I'll keep it short and sweet this month. Doom 2099 A.D. #29 chilled me to the bone.

Adam Frey
Southampton, PA

It was just the start, Adam.



## Next Issue

Captain America.